



**Testimony  
Ralph Eno  
First Selectman, Town of Lyme  
On Behalf of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)  
Before the GAE Committee  
March 8, 2010**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Ralph Eno. I'm First Selectman in the Town of Lyme and a member of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns board of directors. My remarks this morning reflect COST's position on Senate Bill 365. In short, we are in favor and are particularly pleased with the section permitting municipalities to post legal notices on their internet websites.

All of our member towns spend significant amounts of money each year posting such material in their newspapers of record. Providing a website posting alternative offers some much needed mandate relief with an opportunity to save considerable sums of local property tax dollars at a time when our towns are struggling to keep budgets under control. Further, COST believes a website posting option ultimately provides more transparency than the current local paper vehicle.

Finally, COST respectfully requests that a provision included in a similar bill which died at the end of last year's session be reinstated in the present version. It provided an exemption from the Freedom of Information Act concerning the posting of minutes and the recording of votes for towns with populations fewer than ten thousand for a period of five years. If I recall, the General Assembly would then reconsider extending the exemption. The rationale for the request remains the same. Small towns do not have the staff to insure compliance with the mandate. The only options being to pay someone to meet the requirements; rely on volunteers or add to the responsibilities of small town hall staffs which are already a proverbial mile wide and one inch deep.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I would be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

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